

Ex. Doc. No. 62.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

UNCLAIMED WAGES OF SEAMEN.

LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

STATING

His reasons for not complying with the resolution of the House of the 21st of February, 1849, on the subject of unclaimed wages of seamen.

MARCH 2, 1849.

Laid upon the table, and ordered to be printed.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
February 28, 1849.

SIR: In compliance with the direction contained in the resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 21st instant, I called on the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury for the information required by the House.

I have the honor to communicate herewith a copy of a communication from that able and excellent officer, showing that there will not be time during the remainder of the session of Congress to prepare the statements required. The books of the treasury can alone furnish the information called for by the resolution; and I am satisfied that the examination of the books, and of the pay and muster rolls of the naval service for so long a period, would occupy a much longer time than now remains of the session.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

J. Y. MASON.

HON. ROBERT C. WINTHROP,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Fourth Auditor's Office,
February 26, 1849.

SIR: Having been detained from the office for several days by severe indisposition, the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 21st inst., referred by you on the 22d, calling for information as to "the amount of money now due, or retained by the government, arising from unclaimed wages of seamen that have died, leaving balances of wages, money, or effects, that are unclaimed; and the names, former residences, and time of death or desertion of such seamen"—did not reach me until this day. There is not now sufficient time, before the expiration of the present Congress, to collect and transcribe the information required; nor would there have been if the labor had been commenced on the day upon which the resolution was passed. I beg that you will accept, and, if you see fit, communicate to the House of Representatives, this explanation of the reason why the intelligence cannot be furnished.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

A. O. DAYTON.

Hon. JOHN Y. MASON,
Secretary of the Navy.